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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01197 011254Z

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ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 FBIE-00 SSO-00 /014 W
---------- 126060
O 011230Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1845
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT FOR LEGATT AND RSS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CANDIDATES FOR FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY (FBINA)

REF: STATE 18991 AND CAIRO 1079

1. VIEW MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH ADMISSION OF SELECTED EGYPTIAN CANDIDATES TO FBINA, I CALLED DEPUTY PRIMIN/MININT MAMDOUH SALEM TODAY TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH HIM. I TOLD HIM WE HAD GOTTEN FOUR APPLICATIONS THROUGH MARWAN AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, AN INDICATION OF THE TWO DESIGNATED BY SALEM TO ATTEND THE FIRST COURSE. MARWAN HAD ALSO CONVEYED SALEM'S VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO INTERVIEW.

2. I SAID BOTH FBI AND EMBASSY ARE ANXIOUS TO PROCEED WITH THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT, WHICH SHOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO GOE. I MENTIONED THAT OUT OF 250 ENROLLEES IN EACH COURSE, APPROXIMATELY 10-15 FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS GROUP. AS HE WOULD APPRECIATE THESE STATISTICS, THE DEMAND FROM ABROAD IS GREAT. BECAUSE OF ITS DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW ERA OF US-GOE RELATIONS, THE FBI HAS VERY GENEROUSLY MADE TWO OF THESE FOREIGN SLOTS AVAILABLE TO EGYPT FOR EACH OF THE TWO COURSES GIVEN IN 1975. THE COURSE IS RIGOROUS, HENCE FBI BELIEVES IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES TO CONDUCT A CAREFUL SCREENING OF CANDIDATES. STUDENTS DO FLUNK OUT AND CLEARLY BOTH GOE AND USG SHOULD ENSURE
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THAT EGYPTIANS CANDIDATES ARE OF A QUALITY WHERE THIS IS NOT RPT

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NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN. SINCE LEGATT BEST QUALIFIED TO MAKE JUDGEMENT ON PROSPECTS OF CANDIDATES, I SUGGESTED IT IS IN BOTH SALEM'S AND OUT INTERESTS THAT HE AGREE TO HAVING CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION, SALEM AGREED THAT LEGATT MIGHT COME AND INTERVIEW THE FOUR NOMINEES WHOSE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US. LEGATT COULD THEN CHOOSE THE TWO WHOM HE FELT TO BE BEST QUALIFIED. IF THE OTHER TWO DO NOT APPEAR QUALIFIED FOR THE SECOND COURSE THIS YEAR, OTHER INDIVIDUALS WILL BE NOMINATED IN TIME FOR THAT COURSE. (THE FOUR CANDIDATES TO BE INTERVIEWED ARE THE TWO CITED IN CAIRO 975 AND TWO OTHERS WHOSE APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED AT THE SAME TIME FOR THE SEPT-DEC 1975 COURSE.)

3. I THEN MENTIONED FINGERPRINTING REQUIREMENT TO SALEM. HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS NEGATIVE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE POLICE OFFICERS, WHO ARE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY ARE HONEST MEN. FINGERPRINTING IS ONLY FOR CRIMINALS OR CRIMINAL SUSPECTS. I TOLD HIM THAT I UNDERSTOOD EGYPTIAN VIEW ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT THAT WE DO NOT VIEW FINGERPRINTING IN SAME LIGHT. ALL OF THE FBINA CANDIDATES ARE FINGERPRINTED AS A ROUTINE MATTER. I COULD ASSURE HIM, MOREOVER, THAT ALL FBI AGENTS ARE FINGER-PRINTED. FOR THAT MATTR, I AND ALL DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICERS AT ONE TIME OR OTHER HAVE BEENFINGERPRINTED. WE DO NOT CONSIDER FINGERPRINTING TO BE ASSOCIATED ONLY WITH CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY AS A POTENTIAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICE. IF HE BELIEVED HIS OFFICERS WOULD BE UPSET OR LOSE FACE BY BEING ASKED TO BE FINGERPRINTED, PERHAPS IT WOULD HELP IF I WERE FINGERPRINTED AT THE SAME TIME TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE IS NOTHING REPREHENSIBLE IN PROCESS. SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, SALEM THEN AGREED THAT ONCE THE SELECTION IS MADE, THE TWO CANDIDATES MAY BE FINGERPRINTED.

4. I HOPE THE ABOVE RESOLVES THE MISUNDERSTANDING. SUGGEST KORONTJIS ARRANGE TO VISIT CAIRO AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME IN NEXT WEEK TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES. I WILL MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS FOR INTERVIEW DIRECTLY THROUGH SALEM.
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